

**Remarks/Arguments:**

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 9, 15-29, and 31-43. In addition, Applicants have cancelled claim 30, and have added new claims 44 and 45. Accordingly, claims 1-29, and 31-45 are pending.

Applicants note that the Office Action Summary of the Office Action does not identify claim 25. This appears to be a typographical error, since claim 25 is addressed in the body of the Office Action.

**Interview Summary**

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesies extended by Examiner Harvey to Applicants' counsel, Daniel N. Calder, during a telephone interview held on Tuesday, July 13, 2004. As a result of that telephone interview, Applicants counsel prepared a "Second Preliminary Amendment" addressing issues which now appear in the pending Office Action. A copy of that Second Preliminary Amendment was informally provided to Examiner Harvey who approved the changes. Unfortunately, Applicants were not in a position to review and approve the Second Preliminary Amendment in time to avoid issuance of the pending Office Action. Nonetheless, this Amendment in substantial part includes the amendments to the drawings, specification, and claims as reviewed and approved by Examiner Harvey in the informal Second Preliminary Amendment.

Changes set forth in this Amendment which were not in the informal Second Preliminary Amendment are minor amendments to claims 3 and 18, and the addition of new claims 44 and 45. By Applicants' amendments to claims 3 and 18, Applicants have more clearly defined the invention as set forth in those claims. And new claims 44 and 45 simply state features which have been deleted in claims 3 and 18. Applicants' amendments to claims 3 and 18 and the addition of claims 44 and 45 are not the addition of new matter, but are based on the application as originally filed. In this connection, Applicants point to the originally filed application at page 13, lines 3-7.

**Drawing Objections**

Figures 12A, 12B, and 13 have been objected to because they do not include the legend "Prior Art." Applicants have amended Figures 12A, 12B, and 13 to overcome the drawing objection.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 15-29 and 40-43 are objected to on informal grounds set forth at page 2 of the Office Action. Following the guidance of the Examiner, Applicants have amended these claims to overcome the objections based on informality.

**Claim Rejections Under Section 112**

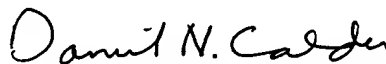
Claims 2, 3, 10, 17, 18, 25, and 40-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reasons set forth at page 3 of the Office Action. Following the Examiner's guidance, Applicants have amended these claims to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection. It is Applicants' contention that all pending claims are in full compliance with Section 112.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 1, 4-9, and 11-14 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are either allowed or in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424  
Attorney for Applicants

DNC/lcf

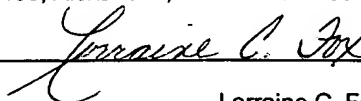
Attachments: Figures 12A, 12B, and 13 (2 sheets)

Dated: November 2, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: **November 2, 2004**



Lorraine C. Fox

Application No. 09/980,325  
Amendment dated November 2, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2004

YAO-4349US

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 12A, 12B, and 13. These sheets replace the original sheets.

Attachments